

## Abstract

The invention pertains to synthetic (*s*) peptides derived from the viral regulatory protein R (Vpr) of the human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1), particularly the chemical synthesis of the 96 amino acid full length Vpr protein (*s*Vpr<sup>1-96</sup>), of a 47  
5 amino acid long N-terminal (*s*Vpr<sup>1-47</sup>), of a 49 amino acid long C-terminal fragment (*s*Vpr<sup>48-96</sup>) as well as fragments thereof (*s*Vpr<sup>1-20</sup> and *s*Vpr<sup>21-40</sup>) and further approximately 15 amino acid long fragments of *s*Vpr<sup>1-96</sup>. As fragments or full length products of the HIV-1 regulatory protein, those products are used in biological assays, for molecular and structural characterization of Vpr and domains thereof, as well as  
10 for the development of anti-Vpr antibodies directed against Vpr peptide sequences.

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